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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 23 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 August 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the attack launched by United States and British aircraft on 17 August 1999 against civilian targets, public facilities and housing units in northern and southern Iraq in which 19 civilians were killed and 11 injured, most of them women and children. The Minister requests the Secretary-General and the Security Council to take the necessary measures to induce the United States and the United Kingdom Administrations to cease the acts of aggression that they are perpetrating against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 22 August 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I wish to inform you that, on 17 August 1999, United States and British aircraft launched a further attack against civilian targets, public facilities and housing units in northern and southern Iraq causing yet more innocent victims, both killed and injured, as described below:

1. At 1025 hours on 17 August 1999, 11 formations flew 22 armed sorties from Turkish territory supported by an AWACS aircraft, overflying Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa Governorates in northern Iraq, outside the exclusion zones imposed by the United States Administration. Eight civilians were killed and a number of others injured, thus bringing to 2,169 the number of armed sorties flown from Turkish airspace since 17 December 1998.

2. At 1407 hours on 17 August 1999, 12 formations of United States and British aircraft flew 14 armed sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 20 sorties from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS aircraft from inside Saudi airspace and by an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Basra, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Wasit and Qadisiyah Governorates and bombed civilian installations and public facilities outside the zone demarcated by the 32nd parallel, injuring one person. On the same day, United States and British aircraft committed yet another foul crime by carrying out barbarous bombing operations against residential areas in Jassan district in Wasit Governorate in the southern region, killing 11 civilians, including 4 children and 4 women, and destroying several homes. It is worth mentioning that this town was originally outside the so-called exclusion zone imposed by the United States and British Administrations. This reveals the true nature of the criminal actions by the United States and the United Kingdom against the Iraqi people which are aimed at Iraqi territory in its entirety, and not just at the supposed air exclusion zones. These air attacks on Iraqi territory by the United States and British forces killed 19 people and injured 11. This brings to 9,454 the number of armed sorties flown from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace since the day of the all-out armed attack on 17 December 1998. The number of armed sorties flown from Kuwaiti, Saudi and Turkish airspace comes to a total of 11,623.

In condemning these repeated criminal acts against the territory and people of Iraq, we request the Security Council to assume its full responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations and to take the necessary measures to induce the Administrations of the United States and the United Kingdom to cease the acts of aggression that they are perpetrating against Iraq. We also take this opportunity to affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation, in accordance with the rules of international responsibility, for all the human casualties and the material and moral damage that has been inflicted on Iraq by these hostile acts which are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq